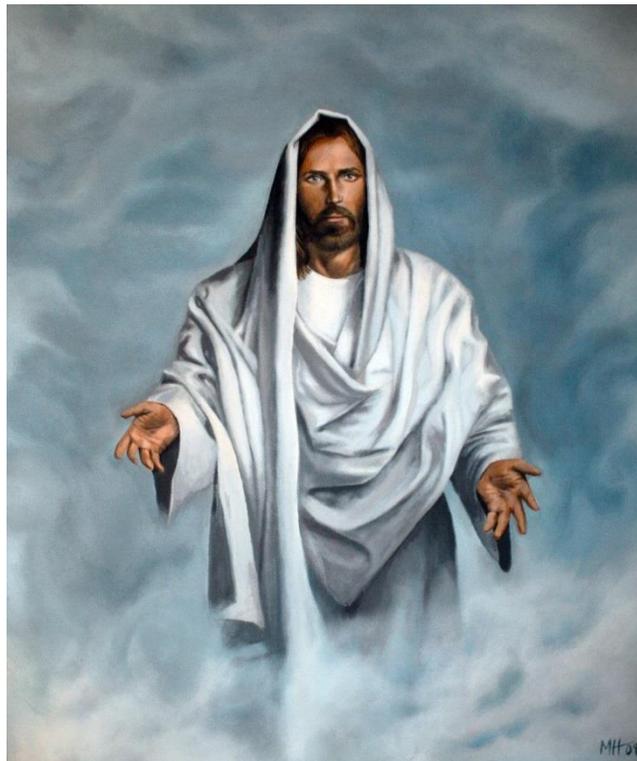


**Green County Church of Christ
Vacation Bible School – 2015**

Standing on the Promises



Lesson One: Jesus' Promise that...

“Whoever lives and believes in me will never die”

John 11:25-26

Primary Series Aim: Students will be encouraged to believe and obey the gospel that they might become partakers of the promises Jesus made, that through Him alone they may receive eternal life.

Secondary Series Aim: Students will know what Jesus said about subjects of eternal and spiritual importance regarding promises He made to us.

Lesson One Aim: Students will believe that Jesus' promise of a resurrected life is real and that the conditions for it are to believe in Him and to live in Him which will be explained.

Lesson Plan:

First Session (40 minutes):

- Discussion
- Questions
- Activities

Second Session (40 minutes):

- Review
- Testing
- Crafts

Special Note to Teachers: Please try hard to get the main points across and test to see if students understand the purpose of the study. This material is provided to serve you and not you, it. God bless you in efforts. (Separate question/activity sheets will be given to students)

Memory Verse for Today

"I am the resurrection and the life..." John 11:25

SATAN WANTS YOU TO THINK:

- Jesus was not a real person in space and time. He is a fictitious person concocted in the minds of people who were little more than hallucinating or delusional simpletons.
- If Jesus was a real person he was only a philosopher and nothing more.
- The Bible cannot be trusted enough to relate a true account of Jesus' life; it is just a book of myth, folklore, and fairy tales.
- Whatever Jesus said was necessary to be saved or get to heaven is not important today if for no other reason that things have changed so much since he lived. They could not apply to modern times and the modern mind.

GOD WANTS YOU TO KNOW:

- *Jesus is real.* There is plenty of evidence to back it up. All history up to Him points to Him and all history after Him looks back to Him. He changed the world forever through His life and teaching. Historical documentation and records of Jesus' life is greater than that of other notables in history such as Julius Caesar or Alexander the Great. To discount one is to discount the other.
- *Jesus was more than a philosopher;* He is the divine God-Man who claimed to be the *only* way to God and salvation from God's judgment. The Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) detail His life on earth from beginning to end. They are presented as eyewitness fact, not imaginary fiction.
- *Jesus promises to resurrect people from the dead.* Those who meet the conditions He set down will receive eternal life. Those who reject Him will be resurrected to eternal condemnation.
- *Whatever Jesus said about anything is critically important* and applies to every person in every generation as long as the world stands.

Who will you and I believe?

TODAY'S TEXT: JOHN 11:1-44

Summary

Jesus' friend Lazarus was very sick and it was reported to Him. Lazarus had two sisters, Martha and Mary, who, with Lazarus, lived in the town of Bethany near Jerusalem. When Jesus knew Lazarus had died He went there to raise him from the dead. Jesus commented that Lazarus' sickness was "not unto death." He did not mean he would not die, but that Lazarus' death was not the object of the sickness, nor was it the end of him. The object of it was for Jesus to reveal His divine power to raise his dead friend back to life. The point Jesus makes is – since He can do it once, He can do it again. He promises He will raise all the dead back to life one day. Those who "live" and "believe" in Him will be raised to share life with Him forever.

Special Words and Phrases*

- **DIE/DEAD** (apothnēskō) = "die, dead (to be; become), dying, perish."
- "**NOT UNTO DEATH**" (pros) = "toward, pertaining to."
- **RESURRECTION** (anastasis) = "a standing up again."
- "**FALLEN ASLEEP**" (koimaō) = "(to become) dead."
- **CHRIST** (Christos) = "anointed; Messiah" – a title of Jesus of Nazareth, signifying Him to be the Chosen One who would redeem/save Israel.

*Words in parentheses and italics are taken from Strong's Talking Greek & Hebrew Dictionary.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. What was the occasion for Jesus' journey to Bethany?
Answer: Lazarus was sick and his sisters asked Jesus to come.
2. What had Lazarus' sister Mary done for Jesus?
Answer: She had anointed Jesus with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair.
3. What did Jesus say about Lazarus' illness?
Answer: It was not unto death but for the glory of God, to glorify the Son.
4. What is said about Jesus and His feelings toward Martha, Mary, and Lazarus? Answer: He loved them.

5. Why were Jesus' disciples afraid to go back to Judea?
Answer: The Jews wanted to stone Jesus to death.
6. What did Jesus say His purpose for going was?
Answer: To wake Lazarus from the dead (sleep).
7. What did the disciples think when Jesus told them Lazarus was asleep? Answer: That he was alive but taking restful sleep.
8. Why was Jesus glad that He waited until Lazarus was dead?
Answer: To the intent that they might believe in Him.
9. What did Thomas think would happen if they went back to Judea?
Answer: That they would all die too.
10. Who met Jesus first and what did she say to Him that showed her faith?
Answer: Martha. She called Jesus 'Lord.' She told him Lazarus would still be alive if He had only come earlier.
11. What did Martha believe about the resurrection?
Answer: That it was going to happen at the 'last day.'
12. What are the two conditions Jesus gave for eternal life?
Answer: Believing in Jesus and living in Jesus.
13. What did Martha confess about Jesus?
Answer: That he was the Christ, the Son of God, who was prophesied.
14. What did Mary say to Jesus when she met Him?
Answer: If He had arrived sooner, Lazarus would be alive.
15. How did Jesus feel when He saw them all crying sorrowfully?
Answer: He 'groaned in spirit' and was troubled.
16. What did Jesus do as he journeyed toward the tomb of Lazarus?
Answer: He shed tears for their sorrow.
17. Where had they buried Lazarus?
Answer: In a cave with a stone rolled over the opening.
18. What did Jesus tell them to do to the stone?
Answer: Remove the stone from the tomb.
19. How long had Lazarus been dead and what was his state?
Answer: Four days. He was decomposing and there was stench.
20. What did Jesus do after they had taken away the stone?
Answer: He prayed to His Father in Heaven.
21. What did Jesus do after He prayed?
Answer: He commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb.
22. What happened after Jesus had spoken?
Answer: Lazarus walked out of the tomb.
23. What did Jesus say about Lazarus and why?
Answer: He told them to remove the burial wrappings so that Lazarus could move about freely.

POSSIBLE ACTIVITIES

- FIND-A-WORD
- CROSSWORD PUZZLES
- COLORING PAGES

VITAL TOPICS FROM THE TEXT

What does it mean to *believe in* Jesus?

- To believe in Jesus means to trust and obey Him. It is more than just agreeing that He is divine since demons can do that (James 2:19). Belief (faith) without actions that prove its reality is dead (James 2:17).

What does it mean to *live in* Jesus?

- To live in Jesus means to become a member of His Body, the church (Colossians 1:18) and to live as He did, a life of faith in God and holiness (purity) of character.

How exactly do we come to *live in Jesus* in the first place? Does the New Testament tell us how to get “in” or “into” Christ Jesus? How? Where is it found?

- The New Testament teaches that we get “into” Christ through the *obedience of faith* (Romans 1:5, 26) which includes the rite of *Christian (water) baptism* (Galatians 3:26-27). This is preceded by *confessing Christ as divine*, and *repentance* (willful rejection) of sin and personal sinful behavior (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 2:38). Faith can only come after the gospel (death, burial, resurrection) of Jesus has been preached or taught to us (1 Corinthians 15:1-8; Romans 10:17). This is the Bible way and there is no other.

TESTING CONCEPTS

HAVE EACH STUDENT PREPARE AN 'EXIT SLIP' (A SLIP OF PAPER DESCRIBING ONE OR MORE THINGS THEY LEARNED FROM THE CLASS). WHEN THEY ALL ARE FINISHED, EACH ONE TAKES THEIR TURN READING IT TO THE CLASS AND MAKING REMARKS (IF DESIRED). YOU MAY COMMENT ON THEM ALSO.

ALTERNATELY, YOU MAY PREPARE A WRITTEN OR ORAL TEST OF YOUR OWN TO GIVE TO THEM. YOU MAY USE THE QUESTIONS ABOVE IF YOU WISH.